



HERNANDO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (TDLCB)

Thursday, November 13, 2025

MINUTES

The Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) held a regular quarterly meeting on November 13, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida. The meeting was advertised in the Hernando Sun newspaper, on the Hernando-Citrus MPO website, and on the Hernando County website. The agenda was available on the Hernando-Citrus MPO website.

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Allocco, TDLCB Chair, Hernando County Board of County Commissioner
Gretchen Samter, TDLCB Vice Chair, Person with a Disability (*Attended virtually, abstained from voting*)
Michelle Sikavitsas, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Sam Kinard, Representative from the Public Educational Community (Hernando County School District)
Lindsay Braun, Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or Blind Services
Robert Werts, Veteran Services Representative
Gerry Whitted, Citizen Advocate – Transit User as Primary Means
Melissa Arceneaux, Citizen Advocate
Shanika Figueroa Rodriguez, Local Representative for Children at Risk
Andras Serfozo, Alternate, Public Transit System (TheBus)
Maia Watson, Florida Department of Health Care Administration
Jeannette Estes, State of Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Knazar, Florida Department of Children and Family Services
Casey Ladd, Florida Department of Elder Affairs
Jose Infante, Regional Workforce Development Board

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Esposito, MPO Executive Director
Mary Elwin, MPO Coordinator
Joy Turner, MPO Executive Assistant
Jeff Cottrell, You Thrive Florida, Community Transportation Coordinator

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Chair Allocco called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and the introductions of Board, staff, and attendees followed the Invocation.
- A quorum was declared, and the affidavit of publication was read into the record.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Werts to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Arceneaux and the motion passed 10-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 11, 2025, TDLCB REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Arceneaux to approve the September 11, 2025, Minutes of the TDLCB's Regular Public Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Werts and the motion passed 10-0.

[It is noted for the record that TDLCB member, Sam Kinard, representing the Public Educational Community, arrived at the meeting.]

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Annual Review and Approval of the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Bylaws**

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Werts to approve the Annual Update of the Hernando County TDLCB Bylaws. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whitted and the motion passed 11-0.

2. **Annual and Approval of the FY 2026 Annual Update to the Adopted Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) FY2024-FY2028**

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez to approve the Annual Update to the Adopted TDSP for FY2024-FY2028. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whitted and the motion passed 11-0.

REPORT

Quarterly Report for July 1 through September 30, 2025, by the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC), You Thrive Florida

Jeff Cottrell, Director of Transportation at You Thrive Florida, reported that the quarter was among the busier periods of the calendar year. Ms. Elwin noted a significant increase in employment trips, rising from 73 in July and August to 108 in September. Mr. Cottrell also observed that bus occupancy has grown, with ridership increasing from the typical 2–3 individuals per trip to a consistent 5–6 individuals. *[Total trips reported for the quarter were 4,144, compared to 2,952 for the same period in 2024.]*

Mr. Cottrell further shared that he continues to follow up with the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) regarding You Thrive's Innovative Service Development (ISD) grant application, with the goal of securing funding to expand resources for out-of-county travel.

FEATURE PRESENTATION

Michelle Sikavitsas, 5310 Project Manager and TDLCB representative for the Florida Department of Transportation District 7 (FDOT D7), delivered a presentation outlining the purpose and exclusions of the Section 5310 Grant Program. She explained that the program administers funding and monitors compliance through triennial reviews covering drivers, maintenance, and operations.

Ms. Sikavitsas noted that capital funding for vehicles is the primary focus of Section 5310. In 2025, approximately 35 agencies, including small nonprofits and local transit providers, hold active 5310 grant awards in District 7, which encompasses Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, and Citrus counties. Ms. Estes, representing the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), informed Ms. Sikavitsas that she would reach out for guidance on applying for 5310 grant funding to support one of their agencies in purchasing a van for a group home.

David Knazar, representative from the Florida Department of Children and Family Services, was unable to attend the meeting. He will deliver a feature presentation at the February 12, 2026, meeting. Shanika Figueroa- Rodriguez, the Local Representative for Children at Risk, volunteered to serve as a second presenter at the February 12, 2026, meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Brooksville resident, Laura Beyer, who shared that she is visually impaired, requested the installation of audible crosswalk signals at US 41/Broad Street and SR 50/Cortez, and possibly at SR 50/Cortez and Buck Hope Road. Michelle Sikavitsas, representing the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), acknowledged the request and will present it to FDOT, providing an update to the Board at a future meeting.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Allocco asked Veterans Services Representative, Robert Werts, for an update on the expansion of services at the VA Outpatient Clinic located at 14540 Cortez Boulevard in Brooksville, Florida. Mr. Werts reported that the expansion will include a range of new and enhanced services, such as additional X-ray and MRI capabilities, physical therapy, and other resources designed to better serve the veteran population.

in Hernando County. These improvements aim to reduce the need for veterans to travel to the larger VA Hospital in Tampa for care.

Chair Allocco expressed enthusiasm about the expansion, noting that Hernando County has one of the highest veteran populations in the state, approximately 26,000, which is comparable to the number of students in the county.

MPO STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Esposito shared the following updates:

- MPO staff attended the regional meeting of the Florida Metropolitan Planning Partnership (FMPP) on October 22, 2025, and Mr. Esposito attended the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPOAC) meeting on October 23, 2025.
- The traffic counts for Hernando County began the last week of October and will run through the week of December 11th. Counts will be avoided on November 11th and the week of November 24-28.
- All construction activities associated with the SR 50 widening project from Cobb Road to west of Buck Hope Road have been completed (\$15.8 million project). He thanked the Florida Department of Transportation for this improvement.
- At the October 23rd Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, Ron Lawson shared a concern raised by store operators at Mountain Park Plaza, located on SR 50 west of Cobb Road, regarding a "No U-Turn" sign at the intersection of Mobley Road and SR 50. Mr. Esposito thanked the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for responding promptly and removing the sign. FDOT's swift action is greatly appreciated by the local business community.
- In accordance with the adopted UPWP, the MPO Staff completed the annual review of the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). This is a safety sensitive document staff utilizes as reference during weather events, health events, and other emergency situations.
- Mr. Esposito will attend the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA) regional meeting on Friday, December 12, 2025. He noted that the SCTPA members include MPOs from Hernando, Citrus, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Pasco, Sarasota, and Manatee counties.
- Mr. Esposito continues discussions with Pasco County, Hernando County, and FDOT on County Line Road. The next Teams call is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2025.
- The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meetings originally scheduled for November have been cancelled. MPO staff and the MPO General Planning Consultants, Benesch & Associates, will host a Congestion Management & Complete Streets workshop on November 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Hernando County Building Training Facility. This working session will include participation from Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members and various department representatives from Hernando and Citrus counties. The workshop is open to the public, and a meeting notice will be posted on the MPO website.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Chair Allocco extended holiday greetings to all attendees and adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

The annual public workshop of the Hernando County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026, beginning at 1:30 p.m., followed by the TDLCB regular meeting which will begin no earlier than 2:00 p.m. at the Hernando County Building Training Facility, 1661 Blaise Drive, Brooksville, Florida. The meeting agenda and back-up materials are available online at: www.hernandocounty.us/hernandocitrusmpo.